The Clarion Call

Published Quarterly
Vol: XXV, Issue II
June 2026

Newsletter of the Department of Massachusetts

Department Commander's Message

Brothers,

The first month of my term in office has been a bit of a whirlwind. As I sit down to write this, it is the day after Memorial Day, and the Department colors are currently hanging in my hallway, airing out from a rather soggy weekend.

Looking back, however, I must once again thank those involved in planning the Encampment. It was a successful meeting, and I appreciated the active discussions during the business sessions. I regret that I grew under the weather as the day went on, so I was unable to stay for the banquet. We have built a strong team of officers, including many new and rising leaders who have stepped up, as many of our stalwarts have moved on to continue their service to the organization at the national level; I look forward to working with you all.

In my remarks upon taking office, published elsewhere in this issue, I laid out the direction I would like to see us move towards, mainly using the resources of the Department to focus completely on supporting the Camps. A large part of this includes standing up a number of new committees. The goal of these will be to provide Camp-centric support through physical, financial, informational, and educational resources. Anyone interested in getting involved should always feel welcome to reach out. Initially, these committees are: Bylaws, Youth Programs, Encampment Planning, Public Relations, Charity, and Camp Projects and Programming.

As mentioned, we have hit the ground running. Only a week after the Encampment, I was pleased to represent us at the unveiling of the new monument to the 57 members of the National Lancers who gave the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country, 30 of whom lost their lives during the Civil War. I was accompanied by Dept. SVC Preble, who also serves as Chaplain to the National Lancers.

Memorial Day weekend was, of course, a marathon of events and commemorations. The main one being the service at the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne. I was pleased to read General Logan's Order #11 and present a wreath during the main ceremony. Afterward, we repaired to the graves of the seven unknown Civil War soldiers interred there in two separate sections. After learning that the unknowns were from the 1st Massachusetts Volunteers and fell in the skirmishes leading to the First Battle of Bull Run, I compiled the names who fit those parameters, but whose graves remain unaccounted for. In a new ceremony customized for the event, the names of those 11 soldiers were read aloud as being most likely to include those interred there. We also had the color guard carry a replica of the 1st Massachusetts Volunteers' national colors, and the early history of that regiment was read. Previously provided prayers from our new Dept. Chaplain were read and each grave was decorated with a red rose. Thank you to our Dept. JVC, Dept. Secretary, Dept. Signals Officer, Dept. ROTC Officer, our SVR color guard from Rhode Island, and the spouses of some of our officers, who all stuck it out in the rain to ensure we remembered these soldiers.

It is wonderful to see our camps being so active with the many photos shared from Memorial Day commemorations, and with the spring thaw, many camps are beginning or continuing work on projects. Please remember to reach out for help and guidance and share photos of your progress; the Department is here to support you!

In closing, I would be remiss if I did not give a special thanks to our Dept Secretary, John Dupré, and his wife, Donna; they went above and beyond to ensure wreaths were placed at various graves and monuments across the Commonwealth per the requirements of the various trusts given to the Department over the years. Also, John's due diligence in working with the camps to ensure all the proper paperwork has been compiled and filed on time is instrumental to the department's success, as is all the work he does behind the scenes, which has made my job that much easier as I work to get my bearings as Department Commander and establish the requirements of my position.

Let's look ahead to the summer and continue to live up to the charge set to us by the Grand Army of the Republic to perpetuate the memory of the Boys in Blue, and remember, the best way to do that is to be active and be visible!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

John Wilder
Department Commander

The Department of Massachusetts Encampment

The 2026 Department of Massachusetts Encampment was held Friday, April 24 to Saturday, April 25 at the Embassy Suites in Marlborough, Massachusetts. The Encampment began Friday evening with our traditional "Campfire." The Campfire is intended to provide a relaxing period where Brothers and guests can socialize and build camaraderie. Entertainment for the "Campfire" was provided by *Red Horse Oldtime Duo,* who played a variety of Irish, Scottish, Oldtime, and Civil War tunes. Although the number of attendees was small, those present had a good time, enjoyed the music, and were more than satisfied with the ample selection of hors d'oeuvres provided by the hotel.

Department Commander Rod Fraser and CinC Kevin Tucker got in the spirit of the "Campfire" with their Civil War battle shirts.

Let the "Campfire" fun begin!

"Campfire" entertainment was provided by *Red Horse Oldtime Duo* from Sudbury, MA.

The business meeting of the Encampment began Saturday morning with a memorial for Brothers who passed during the past year. After the memorial and the formalities of opening the meeting, the Department got right to work conducting necessary business.

During the meeting, Brother Cole Anderson of Camp 25 was presented with a certificate for Completion of Memorial University by Department Commander Rod Fraser and CnC Kevin Tucker. Sister Alexandra Anderson, DUVCW, ASUVCW, LGAR, WRC, was presented with the Doctor Mary Edwards Walker Award.

Elections at the Encampment brought in a new slate of Department officers, including: Commander John Wilder, PCC; Senior Vice Commander Peter Preble, PCC; Junior Vice Commander Matthew Ahern, PCC; Secretary/Treasurer John Dupré, PDC; Council 1, Matthew Sergeant, PCC; Council 2, Rod Fraser, PDC; and Council 3, Edward Norris, PCinC.

After the business meeting and elections, the hotel provided an excellent dinner buffet. Awards presented at the banquet by Past Department Commander Rod Fraser included the following:

The PDC Stuart H. Chambers Award for Camp Recruiting to L.A. Tift Camp 15, Willie Grout Camp 25, Col. Robert Gould Shaw Camp 54, and Charles H. Bond Camp 104

The Roger L. Olsen Award for Most Outstanding Brother of the Order for the Year was awarded to Daniel Anderson, CC of Camp 25.

A Department Certificate of Commendation was awarded to Brother Cole Anderson of Camp 25.

A National Meritorious Service Award from the CinC was awarded to Richard Nichols (accepted by Logan Goodwin, CC of Camp 104).

The Department also presented Proclamations to the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati.

Remarks of Department Commander John Wilder at the 2026 Department Encampment

When I joined this organization just about 10 years and one month ago, I did so merely to confirm the records in my family tree and perhaps learn a little bit more about the Civil War. As with many organizations though, we have been eager for new members and leaders, so for not the first time, I was quickly thrust into leadership. One thing is for sure in Camp 104, we have had no shortage of leaders at the Camp, Department, and National levels, all eager to pull in the next generation and get them started on similar paths.

After a few short years, I took the reins as Commander of Camp 104. I leaned on my experiences from other groups to emphasize that a stagnant organization is a dead organization. As such, I looked for opportunities for the Camp to champion causes and efforts that our small group of core members could handle. You can ask a potential member to join, but if you don't have anything for them to do, what are they joining? Take their check, give them a medal, and be surprised when you never see them again. Energy spent on recruitment is wasted when all it consists of is handing out pamphlets and applications to anyone who looks our way; much more important is to put effort into making an active organization which is actually worth joining. With Camp 104, this involved taking on the restoration of the relatively small GAR plot in Lakeside Cemetery in Wakefield. It would take the leaders that followed me to put the plan into action, but it has been a highly visible project we can be proud to hang our Camp colors on. None of us could predict the global pandemic we faced in 2020, and I was not in a position to continue leadership of the Camp, but I passed it along to those who followed me; ready to support their leadership, hoping I had left the Camp better than I found it.

As life imitates art however, "just when I thought I was out, they pulled me back in" and reluctantly I was convinced to join the Department officer line. I have never considered myself a "face of the organization" type of leader, much better suited to work behind the scenes, often finding myself (often literally) knee deep in paperwork. My niche has always been diving through the history of an organization; working to preserve the work of our predecessors and perpetuate their memories. However, this is not to allow us to rest on the laurels of our past. There's a quote from a Past Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts who said "We of the present generation can claim no credit for the achievements of our predecessors…" And the irony is not lost on me in repeating these words to a genealogical society where any descendant in the room is ready at an instant to launch into the gallant stories of their ancestors. I continue though, that while we cannot claim the achievements of our ancestors, we can be inspired by their successes, learn from their failures, and perhaps most importantly, recognize in ourselves the same potential.

It is with this in mind that I have aimed to serve as I have continued through the ranks, and it is what will continue to guide me as I stand before you now as your Department Commander. It is not lost on me that I stand on the shoulders of the 122 men who have held this office before me, and I sincerely thank them for their stewardship. We cannot however rest on the benchmarks of the past, we must learn and continue to

move forward to meet the challenges the future will place before us. We must be ready to try new ideas and approaches. There can be no such thing as “business as usual”.

The biggest change my leadership will bring is a recognition that the Department cannot be the consistency of the organization. The Department is an administrative body, a supporter, a resource… but it is the Camps, and indeed the individual members, which are the face of the organization. I therefor call upon the Camps to champion the activities of this organization. It is you in the local Camps which will do the good works in your local communities, so it is you in the local Camps who will be the face which those communities see. You will still have the full support and resources of the Department, but when you stand to take your recognition, it will be not under the red colors of the Department, but under the proud blue colors of your Camp. It shall be the main mission of the Department to take every opportunity to set up each individual Camp for success; I only ask of you to make the most of those opportunities.

With this in mind, I will endeavor to make more funding, equipment, and resources available to the Camps for projects. We must honor the mandate set to us by the Grand Army of the Republic: to preserve and perpetuate the memory, lessons, and legacy of the Union Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines of 1861 to 1865. There is much to do to and not all of it needs an army to accomplish it. Yes, there are plenty of gravestones to clean, monuments to restore, and artifacts to be conserved, but there are also countless collections of records and memorabilia laying forgotten in local historical societies, dusty closets of town halls, and in private hands. Much of the work in documenting these can be done digitally and started by simply asking the right questions. It is easy to write a check to support an existing project, but it can be so much more impactful to get our hands dirty, literally or metaphorically.

We will work to provide detailed guidance and training in both research and hands on tasks that we all can be doing to better support our mission. Equally important is sharing our work. We will work to increase our presence on social media to engage the local communities as well publish scholarly level articles about our work in national publications to share our efforts beyond our organizations.

Now is the time to share new ideas. We have the resources that almost anything is possible. We are here to support you.

Thank you for your confidence in me and I look forward to the year ahead and the great works we will do together.

2026 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT AT GETTYSBURG!

The 145th National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Allied Orders will be held in Gettysburg, PA, July 30-August 2, 2026. We would like to have a large delegation from the Department attend. Please mark your calendar and plan on joining us!

Pre-Registration deadline for the encampment is 18 July 2026. Registration at the door will be $25. The Encampment registration form can be found on the SUVCW website at:
https://suvcw.org/national-encampment-registration

This form does NOT replace completed Credentials Card Form 2, which is required to complete your registration at the Encampment. You will not be able to register at the Encampment without a complete Credentials Card from your Department Secretary. Pre-registration will be acknowledged by e-mail only and not individually by mail.

The 2026 National Encampment will be held at the Aspire Hotel & Suites in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The Eisenhower Hotel is directly connected to the Aspire, and attendees may choose to stay at either property. Both properties offer convenient on-site lodging, including breakfast, and easy access to all encampment meetings and events.

The forms for meal reservations are available on the National SUVCW website. Meal reservations must be made by July 1, 2026.

From the GAR Highway Officer

My name is Henry Buckley, and I am the Department's GAR Highway Officer. I want to share with the membership a few facts about the GAR Highway, US Route 6, and why it is so important to us as an organization. The Grand Army of the Republic Highway in Massachusetts was established by the General Court (the legislature of Massachusetts) in Chapter 19 of the Acts of 1937, because they believed that it was "fitting and proper that the veterans of the civil war should be given further recognition for their valiant services in the war of the rebellion". The highway consists of all portions of US Route 6 within Massachusetts. The Massachusetts section of Route 6 runs from the Rhode Island border in Seekonk to Provincetown and covers roughly 118 miles. Massachusetts was the first state in the Union to ever adopt this measure of recognition, but such a memorial was subsequently adopted by other states through which Route 6 ran. Parts of the transportation corridor that eventually became the GAR Highway trace back to Native American trails and early colonial paths on Cape Cod. As railroads declined in the twentieth century and cars became more common, Route 6 became one of the main reasons Cape Cod shifted toward the tourism economy people recognize today. Busy Cape Code corridors of the GAR Highway can see roughly 60,000–70,000+ vehicles per day near the Cape bridges during the year, with higher summer spikes. The highway sees tens of millions of people travel through it each year, and serves as one of the Order's greatest ways to both keep green in the minds of Americans the sacrifices of the boys and blue, and as a valuable showcase of the work of our Order. It will be my top priority as your GAR Highway Officer to ensure that the highway serves as a clean, proud memorial to union veterans of the Civil War. Please contact me with any concerns, suggestions or questions concerning the highway.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Henry R. Buckley
GAR Highway Officer

FROM THE PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Flag Day and the Civil War: Preserving the Union Under One Flag

Each year on June 14, Americans celebrate Flag Day, honoring the Stars and Stripes that have served as our nation's symbol since 1777. While the flag has witnessed many defining moments in American history, perhaps no period tested its meaning more than the Civil War.

When the Civil War began in 1861, the United States faced its greatest crisis. Eleven Southern states seceded from the Union, and the future of the nation hung in the balance. For Union soldiers, the American flag became far more than a military banner. It represented the survival of the nation itself—the belief that the United States was one country, indivisible, and worth preserving.

Throughout the war, regimental flags were treasured possessions. Soldiers marched behind them into battle, rallied around them amid confusion and smoke, and risked their lives to keep them from falling into enemy hands. The loss of a regimental flag was considered a great disgrace, while acts of bravery involving the defense of the colors were celebrated throughout the army.

During famous battles such as Antietam, Gettysburg, and Petersburg, color bearers often became prime targets. Carrying the flag was one of the most dangerous assignments on the battlefield because the flag served as a visual guide for troop movements. Many color bearers were wounded or killed while carrying the colors forward. Yet when one fell, another often stepped forward to ensure the flag continued to fly.

The Battle of Gettysburg offers numerous examples of extraordinary courage involving the national colors. Union soldiers fought fiercely to prevent their flags from being captured, knowing that the flag represented not only their regiment but also the cause for which they fought. Similar acts of devotion occurred throughout the war, earning many soldiers the Medal of Honor for their efforts to save or reclaim their regimental colors.

President Abraham Lincoln often spoke of preserving the Union, and the American flag became the most visible symbol of that goal. When Union forces achieved victory in 1865, the Stars and Stripes remained the flag of a nation reunited. The Union had survived, and the flag stood as a testament to the sacrifices made by hundreds of thousands of Americans.

Today, when we observe Flag Day, we remember not only the adoption of the flag in 1777 but also the generations who defended it. The Civil War reminds us that the flag's meaning was forged through sacrifice, courage, and an unwavering commitment to the ideals of liberty and union.

As we display the American flag on Flag Day, we honor the soldiers who carried it through some of the darkest days in our nation's history. Their devotion ensured that the Stars and Stripes would continue to fly over a united nation, serving as a symbol of freedom and national unity for generations to come.

"We take the stars from heaven, the red from our mother country, separating it by white stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing Liberty." While the origins of this quotation are debated, the ideals it expresses were defended and preserved by those who fought beneath the flag during the Civil War.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

George Maple
Patriotic Instructor
Dept of Massachusetts

Brothers of the SUVCW Meet in Far-away Places!

Recently, Brothers Jeremy Allen, of Camp Ezra S. Griffin #8 from the Department of Pennsylvania, and Brother Matthew Sargent, of Willie Grout Camp #25 from the Department of Massachusetts, realized that they were both members of the SUVCW while serving aboard a merchant ship transporting United States military cargo in support of ongoing combat operations. Brother Allen is serving as the ship's Radio Officer and has been sailing in the Merchant Marine for 29 years since his graduation from Massachusetts Maritime Academy in 1997. Brother Sargent, also a Massachusetts Maritime Academy graduate, class of 2009, is serving as a Tactical Advisor aboard the vessel and has been mobilized by the United States Navy until sometime in the fall. Both Brothers have been able to share stories about their ancestors as well as their camps and department activities! You never know where you will meet a fellow Brother!

Brother Matthew Sarget of Camp 25 (Dept of MA), and Brother Ezra Griffin of Camp 8 (Dept of PA) meet aboard a merchant ship supporting ongoing combat operations.

Camp 54, SAR, and DAR Honor Grandsons of Paul Revere in Joint Memorial Ceremony

On May 16, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. Camp 54, in partnership with the Boston Chapter Sons of the American Revolution and the Paul Revere Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, held a special memorial ceremony honoring the grandsons of the legendary Paul Revere, Colonel Paul Joseph Revere and Dr. Edward Hutchinson Robbins Revere, at Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The ceremony commemorated their ultimate sacrifice during the American Civil War. As members of the 20th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, known as the "Harvard Regiment", their legacy of bravery and dedication to preserving the Union and ending slavery continues to inspire us today.

Dr. Edward H. R. Revere, a graduate of Harvard Medical School, served as an assistant surgeon and was the only medical officer on the field at the Battle of Ball's Bluff. Captured during the engagement, he spent four months as a prisoner of war, during which time he continued providing medical care to sick and wounded prisoners in Richmond, Virginia. After his exchange, he returned to active service and was killed at the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862, the bloodiest single day in American history, while tending to a wounded soldier on the battlefield.

Colonel Paul J. Revere, a namesake of his grandfather, rose through the ranks to command the 20th Massachusetts. He was also captured at Ball's Bluff and wounded at Antietam before returning to duty. At just 30 years of age, while leading his regiment during the Battle of Gettysburg, he was mortally wounded by artillery fire on July 2, 1863, and died two days later on July 4, 1863, the anniversary of American Independence.

Wreaths of Evergreen to symbolize undying love were presented by Camp 54 Commander Ronald Glidden and Paul Revere Chapter DAR President Kim White-Sawczynec.

This memorial highlights a lineage of American service that began with the nation's founding in 1776, was tested during the Civil War from 1861–1865, and remains preserved by the Union today.

The Revere ceremony was attended by members of the SUVCW, the SAR, the DAR, Sisters of the DUVCW, ASUVCW, LGAR, WRC, and a representative of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company.

Paul Joseph Revere (standing) next to his brother Edward H.R. Revere

A Busy Month for Charles H. Bond, Camp 104

On May 16, Camp Commander Logan Goodwin and Department Commander John Wilder flagged about 300 graves in Wakefield's Lakeside, Forest Glade, and Old Burial Ground. They also replaced any missing or damaged grave markers in preparation for Memorial Day.

On May 23, Brother Matthew Ahern (Department JVC) lead a Liberty Tree 250th commemoration event in Billerica, acting on behalf of the Thomas Talbot Lodge A.F. & A.M. in conjunction with the Billerica Minutemen. Department Commander John Wilder commanded the firing line and the Minutemen. Afterward, at Fox Hill Cemetery, SUVCW Commander in Chief Kevin Tucker addressed the crowd on the importance of Memorial Day and its Civil War origins. Following this, Dept JVC Ahern read the names of the Union Soldiers buried in Fox Hill Cemetery and proceeded to flag the graves.

On May 23, Brother Sam Doran, with assistance from his father Guy Doran, flagged approximately 219 graves at Munroe Cemetery in Lexington. 98 of the graves were Civil War veterans, with 7 of them being Union soldiers in the GAR plot, which was originally purchased by the General George G Meade Post 119.

On May 24th, Camp 104 Brothers Wilder (Department Commander) and Ahern (Dept JVC) attended and participated in the Memorial Day commemoration event and wreath laying at the Massachusetts National Cemetery at Bourne.

On May 25th, Brother Matthew Ahern (Dept JVC), spoke at Billerica's Memorial Day ceremony and read aloud General Logan's Order #11, establishing Decoration Day in 1868.

GAR plot - Munroe Cemetery- Lexington, Mass

Brother Sam Doran and his father Guy, flagging graves at Munroe Cemetery in Lexington, MA.

Brothers Matthew Ahern, JVC and C-in-C Kevin Tucker at Billerica Liberty Tree 250th event.

Commander Goodwin, Flagging graves at Lakeside Cemetery.

Camp 25 Commander Helps at West Virginia Cemetery

Recently, my aunt put me in touch with an old family friend who now manages a cemetery I had known about most of my life but had never visited. When we spoke on the phone, she told me that she'd like to get headstones for missing soldiers but could not since they didn't have any known family. She said she wanted to restore the old monuments and promote the cemetery to attract more visitors to this historic site. I told her she had picked the right man in the right organization.

Rymer Cemetery lies in rural West Virginia, near where my parents were born and raised. I'd seen old pictures, and it was gorgeous back in the day. Unfortunately, the hill where it's located is no longer clear but instead a forest. Given its location, I figured the cemetery itself would take a lot of work.

I traveled to West Virginia, and when I arrived at the base of a hill where the cemetery was located, I saw that the path to the cemetery was all but obscured. I climbed the remote hill, and upon reaching the top, I discovered the view of the cemetery was well worth the climb. It was obvious that a lot of effort goes into maintaining such a remote cemetery.

The most prominent feature in the cemetery was a Civil War monument approximately 20 feet tall, with many of the nearby graves sporting the GAR symbol.

We even gave a lesson on how to use D/2 on this cool and rainy day… on one of my Civil War ancestors (great x3 grandfather and his wife, who was the daughter of Eli Brumage of Henry rifle fame)!!! We were limited by the water supply that we carried up the hill, but we'll check back on the progress when we return this summer.

There is so much Civil War history here that most locals don't know but are eager to learn when given the opportunity. God bless West Virginia!

Dan Anderson, Commander
Camp 25

Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

On Memorial Day, 3 wreaths were presented by Brothers of the Department of Massachusetts SUVCW and by Sisters of the Allied Orders at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. CinC Kevin Tucker and Tom Gaff presented the SUVCW wreath, followed by Melissa Anderson and Cole Anderson, who presented on behalf of the Woman's Relief Corps and Logan's Brigade. Brother Dan Anderson and Sister Alexandra Anderson presented the General John A. Logan Museum wreath.

Brother Dan Anderson and his daughter, Sister Alexandra Anderson, present a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

From left to right, LGAR NP Janice Stevenson, ASUVCW NP Danielle Michaels, SUVCW CinC Kevin Tucker, WRC National Presidential Liaison Melissa Anderson, and DUVCW Representative Karen Acosta.

Battle of Fort Wagner/54th Mass Infantry Commemorative T-shirt

Premium T-shirt with ultra-soft feel, comfortable fit, and high-quality finish

Proceeds benefit the **Col Robert Gould Shaw Camp 54**
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Boston, MA

FRONT

Scan this QR Code to Order

BACK

SECOND BATTLE FOR FT WAGNER
JULY 18, 1863
SONS OF UNION VETERANS
OF THE CIVIL WAR
COL. ROBERT GOULD SHAW
WILLIAM CARNEY
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
IN HONOR OF THE
54TH MASSACHUSETTS INFANTRY

CLARION CALL PUBLICATION DATES AND ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

The Clarion Call is published quarterly. Anticipated publication months are December, March, June, and September (to give a few extra weeks to register for our Gettysburg trip). The Editor will email a "Call for articles" to Department Officers and Camp Commanders approximately 14 days prior to publication. However, any Brother who would like to submit an article or Camp news may do so at any time by contacting the Editor at suvcwclarioncall@gmail.com.

L.A. Tift, Camp 15 Participates in Memorial Day Ceremonies

Nathaniel Knight reads General Logan's Order #11 at the Quabbin Memorial Day Ceremony.

It was a very wet and rainy Memorial Day for the L.A. Tift Camp 15 Color Guard at the Quabbin Park Cemetery.

Willie Grout, Camp 25, Provides Honors for Memorial Day Ceremonies

Camp 25 honors Sergeant Plunkett, who lost both arms saving the flag in battle and never let it touch the ground.

George Maple, PDC, and Rey Rodriguez were color guards at Charles Pinkham's MOH grave.

Past Commander in Chief Ed Norris reads General Logan's Order 11 in the rain at Hope Cemetery in Worcester with Camp 25

Department Participates in Memorial Day Observance at Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne

On May 24, members of the Massachusetts Department of the SUVCW attended the Memorial Day observance at the National Cemetery in Bourne, MA. The procession was led by fife and drums, followed by an SVR Color Guard and other brothers of the Department, including Department Commander John Wilder. Commander Wilder read General Logan's Order #11 and presented a wreath on behalf of the SUVCW.

After the formal ceremony, the SUVCW participated in an additional ceremony at the cemetery honoring seven unknown Civil War soldiers whose remains are buried in two separate locations at the Bourne cemetery. Commander Wilder read a list of names of men of the First Massachusetts Infantry who have no known graves and may include the seven soldiers who were honored. Formal honors were rendered, and taps were played.

From left to right, Commander First Military District SVR Jamie McGuire, Camp 54 Commander Ron Glidden, Department Secretary John Dupré, PDC, Brother Jonathan Cheney, Department Commander John Wilder, Department JVC Matt Ahern, and Brother Mike Stewart.

Preparing for the procession and hoping the rain holds off a little longer. It doesn't.

The SUVCW leads to the procession to the formal Memorial Day observance at Bourne Cemetery.

Department Commander John Wilder reads General Logan's Order #11 (in the rain) at Bourne Cemetery.

One of seven graves of Unknown Civil War soldiers at Bourne Cemetery.

The Department conducted a special ceremony to honor the seven Unknown Civil War soldiers at Bourne Cemetery.

General George L. Hartsuff, Camp 50, Organizes Civil War Reenactment at Hartsuff Park

Camp Commander Paul Brundige and the Brothers of Camp 50 organized a Civil War Reenactment at their namesake park (Hartsuff Park) in Rockland, Massachusetts, on May 31, 2026. The reenactment was supported by the New England Brigade, the umbrella group for Federal reenacting units in New England. Brother Todd Bryda of Camp 54 serves as Colonel and Military Commander of the NEB and commanded Federal forces at the reenactment. Camp 50 Commander Paul Brundrige hopes to organize a Civil War reenactment at Hartsuff Park every two years.

† CHAPLAIN'S CORNER †

A Prayer for the Unknowns

Almighty God,
Lord of history and Prince of Peace,
we gather upon this sacred ground with gratitude, reverence, and humility.

On this Memorial Day, we remember those who answered the call of duty and gave their lives for the preservation of liberty and union. We honor especially these unknown soldiers whose names are known only to You, yet whose sacrifice helped shape the course of this nation and secure the freedoms we now enjoy.

Grant that we may never forget the courage of those who stood in the face of danger, the devotion of those who endured hardship, and the faithfulness of those who gave what President Lincoln called "the last full measure of devotion."

As flowers are laid and solemn notes are sounded, remind us that memory is itself a sacred duty. Keep us mindful that freedom is never without cost, and stir within us a renewed commitment to justice, mercy, unity, and peace.

Comfort all who continue to mourn the fallen. The families, comrades, and generations who bear both the pride and sorrow of sacrifice. Strengthen all who serve our nation today, and guide the leaders of this country with wisdom, integrity, and compassion.

May these honored dead rest in eternal peace, and may we who remain live worthy of their sacrifice.

In Your holy name we pray.

Amen.

Reverend Matthew Wissell
Department Chaplain

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2026-2027

Commander: John Wilder, PCC. Email: jwwt2000@hotmail.com
Senior Vice Commander: Peter Preble, PCC. Email: rev.peter.preble@gmail.com
Junior Vice Commander: Matthew Ahern, PCC. Email: mahernmassar@outlook.com
Secretary/Treasurer: John Dupre, PDC. Email: jdupre5762@aol.com
Council 1: Matthew Sergeant, PCC. Email: mattysargent@gmail.com
Council 2: Rod Fraser, PDC. Email: rodfrasersuvcw@gmail.com
Council 3: Edward Norris, PCinC. Email: norris.ed@comcast.net

Patriotic Instructor: George Maple, PDC. Email: gmaplejr@gmail.com
Chaplain: Reverend Matthew Wissell. Email: mjwissell@gmail.com
Graves Registration Officer: Bill Naughton, PDC. Email: billsland@aol.com
Historian: Reverend Peter Preble, PCC. Email: rev.peter.preble@gmail.com
Civil War Memorials Officer: Logan Goodwin, CC. Email: logang454@yahoo.com
Eagle Scout Coordinator: Michael Terry, PCC. Email: michaeltraskterry@gmail.com
Counselor: Edward Norris, PCinC. Email: norris.ed@comcast.net
GAR Highway Officer: Henry Buckley. Email: henryrbuckley@gmail.com
ROTC Officer: Jonathan Cheney. Email: jcheney1989@gmail.com
Guide & Color Bearer: Daniel Anderson, CC. Email: dan-n-melissa@msn.com
Signals Officer (Web Master & *The Clarion Call* Editor): Ron Glidden, CC. Email: capefifer@gmail.com
Guard: Cole Anderson
Camp Organizer: Rod Fraser, PDC. Email: rodfrasersuvcw@gmail.com

Department Contact Information

Mailing Address: Dept. of Massachusetts
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
19 Curtis Ave
Haverhill, MA 01835

Website: www.suvmass.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/suvcwmass

Copyright © 2026 Dept. of Massachusetts, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. All rights reserved.